

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request favorable reconsideration of this application, as amended.

Claims 1-18 are pending. By this Amendment, Claims 1, 8, 10, and 17 have been amended to more particularly recite subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention and as discussed in detail below. Claims 2-4 and 11-13 have also been amended for consistency. Claims 6 and 15 have been amended as suggested to address the alleged informalities therein.

In the Office Action, Claims 1, 3-5, 10, 12-14, and 17-18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 over Yamada in combination with Kozicki; Claims 2, 6, 11, and 15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 over Yamada and Kozicki in further combination with Wada; Claims 7 and 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 over Yamada and Kozicki in further combination with Mikoshiba; and Claims 8 and 9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 over Yamada and Kozicki in further combination with Kinoshita.

Without acceding to the rejections, Claim 1 now recites, *inter alia*, at least one element selected from Zn, Au, Ag, Cu, Ti, Zr, Hf, V, Nb, Ta, Cr, Mn, Fe, Co, Ni, Rh, Pd, La, Ce, Pr, Nd, Sm, Eu, Gd, Tb, Dy, and Cd. Support for the amendment is provided, for example, at page 36, lines 2-

15. It is apparent that the applied references do not teach or suggest this feature.

For example, the primary reference, Yamada, is directed to a reversible optical information recording medium having various properties. See Yamada, col. 2, lines 30-40. In particular, the cited portion of Yamada is understood as teaching an information recording medium composition that can include the element Sb. Yamada, col. 6, lines 52-61; and FIG. 3. Thus, it is clear that Yamada does not teach or suggest at least one element selected from Zn, Au, Ag, Cu, Ti, Zr, Hf, V, Nb, Ta, Cr, Mn, Fe, Co, Ni, Rh, Pd, La, Ce, Pr, Nd, Sm, Eu, Gd, Tb, Dy, and Cd, as recited in Claim 1.

The secondary references are not seen as remedying the above-noted deficiency of Yamada, nor does the Office Action rely on the secondary references for such teaching.

Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 1 distinguishes patentably from the applied references.

Claims 8, 10, and 17 also recite, *inter alia*, at least one element selected from Zn, Au, Ag, Cu, Ti, Zr, Hf, V, Nb, Ta, Cr, Mn, Fe, Co, Ni, Rh, Pd, La, Ce, Pr, Nd, Sm, Eu, Gd, Tb, Dy, and Cd.

Accordingly, Claims 8, 10, and 17 are also believed to distinguish patentably for at least the reason discussed above with respect to Claim 1.

The remaining claims also believed to be patentable at least due to their respective dependence from Claims 1, 8, 10, and 17, as well as for the additional subject matter recited in the remaining claims.

Therefore, a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge to Deposit Account No. 50-1165 (XA-10616) any fees under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 and 1.17 that may be required by this paper and to credit any overpayment to that Account. If any extension of time is required in connection with the filing of this paper and has not been separately requested, such extension is hereby requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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